

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05020 161708Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----042492 161720Z /50
O 161651Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2596
AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5020

NODIS
DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPO, OVIP, IS, EG
SUBJECT: PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ATHERTON TRIP

REF: STATE 097553

1. RELAYED TEXT OF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT TO EVRON APRIL 16.
HE PROMISED TO PASS IT ON IMMEDIATELY TO DAYAN, AND PROMISED TO
LET ME KNOW PROMPTLY IF
GOI HAS ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.

2. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, EVRON SAID HE THOUGHT
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNHAPPY THAT WE WERE PLOUGHING
RELENTLESSLY AHEAD DESPITE BEGIN SUGGESTION THAT
VANCE/DAYAN MEETING PRECEDE ATHERTON'S RETURN TO THE AREA.
AT LEAST, HE SAID, WE MIGHT HAVE WAITED A COUPLE OF DAYS LONGER
UNTIL IT BECAME CLEAR WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE OR NOT
FOR DAYAN TO VISIT WASHINGTON DURING THE LAST WEEK IN APRIL.

3. I REITERATED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD CONCLUDED IT IS IMPORTANT
FOR ATHERTON TO RENEW OUR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE EGYPTIANS
WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY, AND THAT THIS COULD MAKE THE
VANCE/DAYAN MEETING EVER MORE PRODUCTIVE. ALSO EXPLAINED
THAT, SHOULD VANCE/DAYAN MEETING OCCUR DURING LAST WEEK IN MONTH,

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ATHERTON ITINERARY COULD BE CHANGED TO PERMIT HIM TO RETURN
DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON FROM CAIRO TO TAKE PART IN TALKS.

4. EVRON GRUMBLED POLITELY, MAKING COMMENT THAT THIS WOULD
ALL BE SEEN HERE AS MORE EVIDENCE OF THE DETERIORATING
ATMOSPHERE IN US-ISRAELI RELATIONS; ABOUT WHICH HE WOULD SAY
MORE WHEN NEXT WE MET.

5. THERE WAS NO HINT THAT ATHERTON SHOULD NOT COME TO JERUSALEM. BEGIN SPECIFICALLY SAID TO ME FRIDAY THAT "HE WOULD OF COURSE BE WELCOME." EVRON CONFIRMED THAT INDEED THIS IS THE CASE.

6. EVRON CALLED ME WITHIN AN HOUR TO SAY THAT THE GOI HAS ONE REQUEST. THEY WOULD LIKE THE SECOND SENTENCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT DELETED; I.E., THE SENTENCE BEGINNING: "HIS VISIT IS PART OF THE....PEACEMAKING PROCESS FORWARD." I SAID I WOULD PASS ON THIS REQUEST.

7. INCIDENTALLY, NEWS TODAY IS FULL OF STORIES ABOUT "FURTHER REFINEMENT" OF GOI POSITION ON SC 242, SUPPOSEDLY WORKED OUT VOER WEEKEND BY BEGIN AND DAYAN. I DON'T YET HAVE EITHER CONFIRMATION OR DETAILS.
LEWIS

NOTE BY OC/T: NODIS CAPTION ADDED PER MS. KENNEDY, S/S-O.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PEACE, VISITS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS RELEASES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, IS, EG, US, XF, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: STATE CAIRO MULTIPLE
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